



A. W.E.B DuBois; he was born 1868 in western Massachusetts, a community that was tolerant, thus he experienced little racism growing up

- 1905 he helped created the Niagara Movement, the movement focused on bringing legal change for the black population

- “We refuse to allow the impression to remain that the Negro-American assents to inferiority, is submissive under oppression and apologetic before insults”

- The NM was different than other black organizations, it was demanding equal rights and attempted to gain those rights through legal change

- The NM wanted equal economic and educational opportunities and the right to vote for black men and women
“The Power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?”

- DuBois was calling for political and social equality; he believed this was essential to gaining equality

- DuBois believed in the “Talented Tenth”, he believed that the black intellectual elite would lead the movement; the “Talented Tenth” also underlined DuBois’s belief in the need for enhanced educational opportunities for black people if equality was going to be achieved

- An advocate of the Great Migration, he encouraged black people to move from the South and move into the Northeast, West, and Midwest, it was a way to escape racism and find economic opportunities

- **NAACP**

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;
Co Founded by W.E.B in 1909



-The NM was the precursor to the NAACP, many black and white activists believed there was a need for an interracial organization to combat racism. Because of the GM, there was racial tension as seen in the race riot in Springfield, Illinois.

-NAACP's strategy was to **create a legal strategy to create equality**; The NAACP has a long term game plan. They address the issue of inequality by actively challenging Jim Crow laws and most importantly create a legal strategy to challenge school segregation

-First legal victory was in 1915 when the Supreme Court struck down the "grandfather clause", a device used by Southern states to ensure poor/uneducated white people could vote but still oppress any black voters who could not pay the poll tax or pass one of the numerous tests like naming all of the representatives

-The Crisis- started by NAACP and edited by DuBois

-DuBois will leave the NAACP in 1934, he argued that due to the depression that the NAACP should focus on economic advancement and place a hold on the legal battles, thus accepting segregation (temporarily)

B. Booker T. Washington

Born in 1856 in Virginia, his mother was a slave and thus he was a slave; his father was an unknown white man; he was beaten, he was not allowed to go to school

- He educated himself and a self-made man. Goes to Hampton



Institute from a 500 mile trek. He becomes friends with General Armstrong who runs the school.

- Alabama passed legislation in 1881 to create a “colored” school; Booker T. Washington was chosen to head up the school (He was supposed to choose a white man to run the school); Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute= Tuskegee University
- Tuskegee became a leading school, they focused on teaching trades and professions, manners and proper hygiene, all of which fit into Booker’s view of gaining equality.
- Booker believed the AA community had to become self sufficient and willing to work for/white community and be dependable
- Booker T. Washington was for educational and economic quality first, then social and political equality
- He proposed that AA had to first prove win financial independence and demonstrate that they were vital to the economic success of white Americans; then they would gain social acceptance
- **Atlanta Compromise-** a famous speech delivered by booker in 1895; very controversial and not accepted by all
 - Accept segregation and disenfranchisement (deprived of a right or privilege)
 - Demand economic and educational opportunities
 - Demand equal justice in the court system
 - Most controversial was Booker’s view that AA should remain in the South and continue to work for white America
 - Booker said, blacks and whites “can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.
- Booker was also criticized for his political work, due to Booker’s willingness to accept segregation and his talk of accommodation he was accepted by many govt. Officials, in



the North and in the South and thus viewed as an “advisor” on issues relating to AA

- Booker is the 1st AA to invited to the White House, further cementing him as a political ally for those people looking to appease the AA community; many people donated money to Booker for his school and other endeavors
- What most did not realize is that Booker would secretly give money to pay the legal fees to challenge Jim Crow laws and bankroll black newspapers
- **National Urban League**
 - Est. 1910; created to help blacks who moved to the North; from 1910-1930 the Great Migration Occurred, **self reliance and economic independence. Great Migration- More than 1.6M blacks migrated from the South to North from 1910-30, at the turn of the century 90% of the black population lived in the South.

- Reconstruction Amendments

- 13th Amendment; Outlawed Slavery
- 14th Amendment: Made African Americans Citizens. Guaranteed equal protection under the law
- 15th Amendment: Guaranteed African Americans the right to vote

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were supposed to protect the rights of African Americans under the US Constitution.

However, this needed to be enforced. They did no also work because of the US Supreme Court

Plessy v Ferguson 1896

- Federal troops had remained in the South after the Civil War to help with the reconstruction and to help ensure the South was complying with the 14th and 15th amendment. Once the troops left the South, things went back to the way they



were

- In 1890 the state of Louisiana passed the Separate Car Act- a state law that required separate railway cars for whites and blacks
- In 1891 Republican civil rights activists formed a committee to raise funds and recruit volunteers for civil disobedience test cases- the point was to legally challenge segregation laws in New Orleans
- In 1892 Homer Plessy sat in the “white only” section, Homer was specifically chosen to challenge this particular law
 - Homer was 7/8ths French- culturally speaking, LA. Was full of white/black men- Creole
- The SC question was this: Is Louisiana’s law mandating racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional infringement on both the privileges and immunities and the equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment
- Ruling: The SC ruled 7-1 in favor of Judge Ferguson, federal law would now recognize state sanctioned racial segregation. The SC decided that separate facilities/services satisfied requirements of the 14th Am. as long as they were equal. The state was allowed to determine the standards of separate but equal.
- Separate but equal meant that minorities were not allowed in the same places as whites
- Southern states passed laws that legalized segregation known as “Jim Crow” laws
- For the next 70 years, Jim Crow laws dominated society in the South for African Americans
- Segregation became the way of life for blacks in the South

Missouri ex rel Gaines v CANADA 1938

Lloyd Gaines graduated from Lincoln University in 1936 (all black school) applied to the University of Missouri Law School. UM declined his application due to his race- the state of Missouri



offered Lloyd 2 options:

1. Attend an all black law school, that did not exist but that Missouri was willing to build
2. Attend a law school in another state and Missouri would help pay for it
 - a. Cy Canada was the registrar at UM who denied Gaines admission

Gaines refused both options and instead hired Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP

- Argument: was that gaining a law degree in an institution outside of Missouri did not equate equally to with the benefits obtained by attending Missouri's law school
- Decision: Since there was no all black law school in Missouri, the state was required to provide, within Missouri, a legal education for Gaines
 - The Court held that MO failed in its constitutional duty to provide equal protection under the law by failing to provide equal access to public education within the state

Brown v Board of Education- 1954

- 4 separate cases relating to school segregation- public schools were denying black students from enrolling in school and the NAACP had filed lawsuits in Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia, and Kansas
- The Argument was simple: School segregation violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.
 - EPC- No state can deny any person the equal protection of the laws
- The Lead attorney for the NAACP for this case was Thurgood Marshall. He had 2 main arguments:



- Separate but equal was inherently unequal and a violation of the 14th Amendment
- Segregated school systems made black children feel inferior to white children and thus it could not be legally permissible- this was based on research data by Kenneth Clark
- Earl Warren becomes the Chief Justice after Vinson dies. The first time there is no decision. The second time Earl Warren is able to unite the unanimous decision
- May 14th 1954 Chief Justice Warren will write “We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal...”
- **Brown v Board of Education Part 2**
 - The SC requested additional arguments to discuss how to proceed with desegregation in the school system
 - The basic solution was that the SC told the local authorities to integrate and then told the lower federal courts to supervise to make sure integration happened, that it happened soon and punish school systems that did not integrate
 - School systems resisted the Brown decision and Prince Edward county will close all their schools to resist it

Little Rock 9

- The NAACP needed to test the Brown SC decision- it is 3 years later and still little had changed on the ground in regards to desegregation
- Little Rock, AR school board had created an integration plan to begin with the high schools in 1957
- The AR NAACP carefully chose these students
- The students were chosen based on the belief they possessed the strength and determination to deal with his



endeavor

- Before attending the school the NAACP provided intense counseling and training sessions, explaining and demonstrating what they would encounter inside and outside the classroom
- Governor Faubus declared that integration is impossible in a televised statement and tells the National Guard to keep blacks out of the school
- Faubus uses the National Guard on the 2nd day to keep the students out; the NAACP went to court to get an injunction on the gov. Using the NG. The court agreed and the National Guard were removed
- Eventually the police will escort the students into school through a mob of more than 1000
- Eisenhower will call in 1200 members of the 101st Airborne to enforce the SC ruling and protect the 9 students who go to school for a full day. The 101st remain for the entire school year
- The next school year, Faubus will close down all of Little Rock's high schools for the year
- He wants a referendum regarding black students attending the school
- Little Rock citizens voted 19,470 to 7,561 (By a vote of 3 to 1) against integration and the school remain closed
- The lost year ends when pro-integration school board members are elected. After that there will be integration at Little Rock

The Movement's Moment

- Rosa Parks refuses to move to the back of the bus
- Parks is arrested leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 66% of bus riders were African Americans
- It begins on Dec 1st 1955 when Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat; it lasted for 381 Days, ending on Dec 20 1956
- Black riders were required to board and ride in the back of



the bus, they were also required to give up their seat to a white passenger

- This was a political and social protest against the policy of segregation on the Montgomery public transit system
- Rosa Parks is sitting in the front row of the black section; a white man boarded the bus and the bus driver told everyone in her row to move back a row, Rosa Parks refused. There were no ordinances/laws mandating segregation on city buses but bus drivers has the authority to assign seats
- She is the right person to be arrested and her mug shot makes her look docile and peaceful. She was fined \$14 and civil rights leaders meet and organize in Montgomery to plot a strategy
- Browder v Gayle is the Supreme Court case that overturns the Montgomery bus segregation bus policy. The Case was brought by 4 plaintiffs
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott emerges MLK as a leader
- 1958 New Orleans is ordered by a federal ct. To come up with a plan to desegregate the NO Parish school system- this is a ruling done in support of the Brown v Board of Education ruling in 1956
- In an attempt to resist the federal court ruling, NO created an entrance exam for black students to determine if they could compete in an all white school, 6 students passed- 2 chose not to attend, 3 went to McDonough 19, and 1 went to William Frantz
- For an entire year, Ruby Bridges is escorted to school by federal marshals- enrollment at William Frantz decreased as many parents enrolled their children in private schools
- Ruby's parents also suffered, grocery stores would not sell to them and her father lost his job
- Only 1 teacher, Barbara Henry, was willing to teach Ruby and for the 1st year she was in class alone
- In 2nd grade she was in a classroom with other students



- The importance of this is simply that it succeeded, that it is a step moving forward
- The notoriety also helped the movement, money and donations poured in

Types of Protests

- Sit-ins: A peaceful protest tactic initiated by African American in 1960
 - The instructions were to sit quietly and wait to be served all the while in a hostile environment
1. Greensboro, NC February 1st 1960
 - a. 4 students from NC A&T school walked into a Woolworth's Dept store and sat down at the segregated lunch counter
 - b. They ordered coffee, were refused and asked to leave, they stayed in their seats until the store closed
 - c. Day by day the sit in grows
 2. Atlanta, GA March 1960
 - a. Students from 6 historically black colleges organized sit-ins at legally segregated
 - b. This will go on for more than a year- MLK will participate at times
 - c. The owners will eventually agree to negotiate with the student leaders
 - d. A compromise is reached, the restaurants will desegregate in Sept. of 1961 but only after a ct. Order integration of Atlanta schools goes into effect
 - e. Training was provided and recommended, Civil Rights Org. did not advise nor endorse students doing sit ins or other peaceful protests without training
 3. Nashville, TN February 13th 1960
 - a. The Nashville Student Movement (made up of students from the 4 African American colleges) organized a large scale sit-in of the city's downtown restaurants and dept.



Stores

- b. The students conducted the sit-ins in waves at different locations
 - c. This will go on until Alexander Looby's home is bombed
 - d. The sit-in then turns into an all out protest with thousands marching on city hall
 - e. Ultimately the mayor and the downtown business owners agreed to desegregate on May 10th 1960- they were concerned about losing additional business
 - f. This is considered to be the most successful sit-in
4. Freedom Rides- May 4th 1961 a group of black and white Civil Rights Activists began a series of bus rides through the South. The plan was to protest segregation and to test compliance with the Supreme Court rulings that banned segregation on interstate buses and bus terminals that served interstate routes
- a. 1946- Morgan v Virginia, segregation on interstate buses interferes with **interstate commerce** and violates the due process clause of the 14th Amendment thus it is unconstitutional
 - b. Boynton v Virginia, outlawed segregation in interstate transportation terminals
 - c. The Freedom Riders encountered little problems in NC. SC and Georgia- Things change when they reach Alabama
 - d. 1 of the buses were firebombed and the Freedom Riders were beaten when they arrived in Montgomery and Birmingham
 - e. There was a case where the Supreme Court overturns a conviction of Freedom Riders trying to use a whites only bathroom
 - f. On November 1st, 1961 the Interstate Commerce Commission will ban segregation in all facilities under their jurisdiction. A Key discovery is made during these



rides- MLK and other activists learned how provoking white southern violence through nonviolent action would draw national media attention

Mississippi Summer Project aka Freedom Summer

- 1964 Voter Registration Drive sponsored by SNCC and CORE
- The Goal was to increase black voter registration/participation in MS specifically and the South as a whole
- More than a 1,000 out of state volunteers came into MS to assist local activists, many of the volunteers are white
- MS was chosen because of the historically low numbers of black people who vote
- June 15th the first 300 volunteers arrive
- June 16th Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman (white volunteers) along with James Chaney (black organizer) disappeared
- The killings will have a dramatic effect on the movement, people question whether the nonviolent approach will really work- especially among the young blacks
- In an effort to intimidate the CR activists and the local black population, the KKK and local law enforcement will go to extremes to intimidate and threaten
- The kidnapping and 3 deaths of those 3 activists had the desired effect- the drive suffered due to violence, and the threat of violence
- There was also growing distrust between organizers and the federal govt. And distrust between white and black organizers
- All said, only 1200 black people were registered

Civil Rights Act of 1964

- This act will outlaw segregation in all public places



- This act outlaws workplace discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, or national origin
- JFK proposes a legislation in June of 1963 after watching the protests in Alabama
- A lot of the motivation for the legislation was because of the media
- LBJ takes office after the JFK assassination
- There was a lot of resistance in Congress from the Southern States. In the Senate the southern states will hold a 75 day filibuster to try to prevent the bill from coming to a vote
- Everett Dirksen is a Republican in Illinois. He was responsible for helping to gain R votes in the Senate for the Civil Rights Act
- Irony: Dem party sponsored it but Rep party needed to pass it
- Civil Rights Cases
 - Segregation in public places is discrimination, but is not state sponsored
- The Commerce Clause says Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce
- Congress claimed that racial segregation in public places did just that, it interrupted, it affected interstate commerce AND the corresponding sit-ins, boycotts and protests were also interrupting interstate commerce

Civil Rights Marches

- Project C- Launched in 1963 by MLK and the SCLC to put economic pressure on Birmingham, Alabama by actively protesting the segregation policies of Alabama
- Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor will set the police dept and dogs on the protestors
- A judge will issue an injunction against any further protesting, demonstrating and boycotting- Now the authorities had the legal justification to arrest activists
- MLK is arrested on April 12th and writes A Letter from a



Birmingham Jail

- May 2nd 1963- Children's Crusade begins, the SCLC thought this initiative might turn the tide for the Birmingham demonstration, Children left in groups to various parts of Birmingham to protest peacefully
- The goal was to meet with the Mayor, however, hundreds of students are arrested/detained
- On the second day of the protests things got much more violent
- May 3rd Connor will turn the fire hoses dogs on the protestors
- Children will continue to volunteer and the following days
- The media coverage and video footage will create a national outrage
- The protests will be a huge success for the Civil Rights Movement- May 10th city leaders agree to desegregate businesses and release everyone who had been jailed
- The entire event helps to galvanize the movement
- March on Washington August 28th 1963
- The March on Washington for Jobs Freedom was the brainchild of A. Philip Randolph in 1962
- He wanted to draw attention to the dreadful economic conditions facing the African American community
- Randolph and Bayard Rustin will spend the next year planning the event
- Randolph originally planned the march on Washington back in 1941 to protest the fact that AA were excluded from defense jobs and economic inequalities in general
- FDR was able to prevent the march by passing the Fair Employment Practices Committee which was to investigate racial discrimination, hence Randolph will cancel the march and by the end of 1944 2 million AA work in defense industries
- The underlying reason for the March on Washington is to



gain momentum for the Civil Rights Act which was stalled in Congress in 1963

Selma to Montgomery March - March 7th 1965

- It was a march to protest the discriminatory practices in regards to voter registration in Dallas County, Alabama. Things went bad
- The march was organized by the SCLC- Led by Hosea Williams and John Lewis (SNCC)
- The protest went through through Selma w/o incident, it is once the activists reach the Edmund Pettus Bridge
- The violence that ensued once the activists reached the bridge was caught on camera and became known as "Bloody Sunday"
- Selma was chosen for a variety of reasons- Gov. Wallace was an infamous segregationist and the local sheriff had been successful in preventing AA from registering- Only 300 out of 15,000 AA had been able to successfully register
- On March 21st MLK will lead 2000-3,000 marchers across the same bridge- beginning a 3 day, 54 mile long, march from Selma to Montgomery
- This time the marchers are protected by the army and Alabama national guard which were now under federal control
- LBJ moved/helped by the events in Selma was able to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- The Act:
 - Laws restricting the right to vote based on race or color were outlawed
 - Outlawed literacy tests and poll taxes
 - Any new voting practices or procedures had to gain "preclearance" by the federal govt. This is only for certain districts



Poor People's Campaign

- The PPC was MLK's last cause and one that will be very controversial- he will lose support from many of his white allies, most notably LBJ
- MLK believed it was great to desegregate the lunch counters but what is the point if a black man cannot afford to buy a hamburger
- A march was planned for the spring of 1968 on DC- this would not be an ordinary protest march, MLK wanted to shut down DC, to camp out on the National Mall, he wanted to create the longest running protest
- Riots in Detroit and Newark, during 1967 helped to fuel MLK's PPC- MLK believed poverty, unemployment, and a lack of opportunities led to the riots
- MLK saw this as a new phase of the Civil Rights movement, it was time to address the issue of poverty and gaining economic equality/justice for AA
- MLK believed this would be a much more difficult fight- fighting Jim Crow laws did not technically cost white Americans or the nation a penny, however this will literally cost the nation billions
- The rate of poverty in the US was actually at an all time low- 12% but the rate of poverty within the AA community was more than 24%
- The rate of illiteracy, unemployment and malnourishment was higher among the AA than whites
- MLK was calling for "a radical redistribution of economic and political power"
- MLK planned on militant nonviolent civil disobedience- sit ins at the Department of Agriculture, disrupting the daily life of the capital
- MLK threatened that if the govt. Delayed taking action then the protests would get more severe
- MLK said the govt. Owed a debt to the black people and it



was time to collect

- The demands were jobs, healthcare and decent homes
- MLK is assassinated on April 4th 1968- a month before the planned march
- Ralph Abernathy, MLK's chosen successor, takes over the SCLC and the PPC March
- May 14th, 3,000 activists descend on DC and set up Resurrection City
- Unfortunately for the activists, the weather was horrible with heavy rainfall- in addition the protest was largely ignored by the press and thus by Congress
- MLK's absence was also deeply felt by all

SNCC- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

- Organized by Ella Baker, a member of the SCLC
- She believed that MLK and the SCLC were losing touch with the younger black generation
- It is geared toward younger black people who believed CR was not moving fast enough
- Only national CR org led by young people
- Voter registration drives- this was a big issue for the SNCC- Many CR activists began to see political power as more important than integration
- For the most part they stood by the nonviolent tactics but will take a more aggressive approach and advocate for black self-reliance and the use of force
- Stokely Carmichael will be elected president of the SNCC in 1966 and he will epitomize the new SNCC approach with his call for black power

SCLC- Southern Christian Leadership Conference-

they wanted to redeem the soul of America



- CR leaders came together in Atlanta on Jan. 10th-11th 1957 to better coordinate the protests happening throughout the South
- They announced the following:
 - CR are essential to democracy
 - Segregation must end
 - Black people must nonviolently resist segregation
- MLK was elected President of the SCLC
- The Main strategy of the SCLC was to work with local community activists to create mass, nonviolent protests
- SCLC is open to all people regardless of race/religion

CORE- Congress of Racial Equality

- At the beginning CORE only existed up North and was made up primarily of white, middle class individuals, in fact the 1st black leader, James Farmer, or CORE does not happen until 1961
- In 1955 CORE will go to the South and teach nonviolence tactics during the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- They helped initiate the Freedom Rides, Freedom Summer and the March on Washington
- By the late 1960s CORE was advocating for black nationalism and separatism, due to the extreme violence used by white southerners and discrimination in the North, CORE became pessimistic about integration

Black Panthers

- Created by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale
- Very much against the nonviolent approach of MLK and the traditional CR org
- They believed change was taking too long and thus there was a call for a revolution and justification for violence
- They promoted black people to defend themselves, not to go out and find white people to fight
- At this time, Cali gun law allowed for “open carry”, the Black



Panthers would openly carry guns and would stand “witness” (at a legal distance) when cops came to arrest black men and women, to make sure there was no police brutality

- They called for equality in education, housing, employment and civil rights
- The BP got attention of the FBI, they were viewed as a threat, especially during the Vietnam era
 - Newton is gunned down in 1969 in LA
- The Black Panthers initiated the Survival Program, it started with free breakfast for school children, it was an effort to build up the black community- medical, legal, and social services were provided as well as necessities

Malcolm X

- Malcolm Little- Changes name to X, symbolic of “rejecting” his slave name
- Urged black people to defend themselves “by any means necessary”
- A leader within the Nation of Islam- a combination of black nationalism and Islam
- His message was well received by young black people who were becoming disillusioned by the non-violent/patient approach
- Earl Little was an ardent follower of Marcus Garvey, a huge supporter of black nationalism and economic independence
- When he goes to jail, he meets Elijah Muhammad and joins the Nation of Islam
- His calls for action and speeches about historical white crimes against black people scared white middle class America
- Malcolm’s pilgrimage to Mecca 1964 will have a profound effect on his life
- He is intro to orthodox Islamic beliefs
- He returns from Mecca and takes the name El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz



- He learns that Islam preaches equality among all races, however, he still believes that only black people could free themselves- racism had corroded the principles and soul of the US
- Malcolm will begin to adopt more socialist beliefs and in June of 1964 he created the Organization of Afro-American Unity
- The OAAU was dedicated to uniting all people of African descent in the Western Hemisphere
- Reconnect African Americans with the African heritage
- Establish economic independence
- Promote African American self-determination
- Malcolm's change in perspective will unfortunately be short-lived
- He is assassinated on Feb. 21st 1965 at a Black Muslim Rally